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Home College Series.

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GERMANY.

BY REV. J. I. BOSWELL.

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J. H. VINCENT.

NEW YORK, *Jan.*, 1883.

GERMANY.

HAMBURG, on the river Elbe, is the chief seat of the commerce of Germany, and its spacious docks are filled with ships from all parts of the world. The history of the city is an interesting one. There is not much, however, to detain the tourist, so he hastens to take the train for Berlin.

Berlin.—Berlin is one of the great cities of Europe and the metropolis of the German Empire. It lies on both sides of the river Spree, which is spanned by many bridges. It has 520 streets, and numbers a population of about 1,000,000. It is rich in public buildings and places of interest. Among these are the old and new museums, the former of which is the most imposing building in the city. These museums are rich in paintings, statuary, and antiquities. Many monuments are erected to distinguished persons, and near the city is a monument, erected by the present emperor, in memory of the brilliant victories which mark his reign. There are several public parks, and the wide street known as *Unter den Linden* is a favorite place of resort.

The growth of the city has been recent and rapid. When Frederick the Great came to the throne the city had but 90,000 inhabitants. It suffered much during the reign of Frederick, and also during the wars with Napoleon. No other city can show so many noble buildings so near together, and nearly all of these were erected during the present century.

As the German Empire has grown, so has grown Berlin. Parliament holds its session here, and it is the center of the government business. Numbers of people are crowded into large houses, and the rate of mortality is high. About 70

per cent. of the population are engaged in manufactures and trade. The University was founded as late as 1810, but the able scholars who were enrolled among its instructors soon drew a large number of students. The schools for the study of painting and of music take high rank, and there are nine public libraries, at the head of which is the Royal Library with its 800,000 volumes and 15,000 manuscripts.

The Land.—Germany occupies the greater portion of Central Europe. The coast-line is scarcely one third of the whole frontier, and the natural harbors are few. The northern portion of the land is a plain, the swampy parts of which have been improved by drainage and cultivation. The southern portion contains ranges of hills, and the land is fertile and the scenery beautiful. Several rivers flow through the land, and the most important of these is the Rhine. Though this river takes its rise among the Swiss Alps, yet for 470 miles it flows through German territory, and boats can sail all this distance. The beauties of the Rhine are well known. From Bingen to Bonn it winds among vine-clad hills, on whose summits stand the ruined castles of the robber knights of the Middle Ages. Natural beauty, legend, history, and song have, together, made this river the most attractive in Europe.

Forests abound, and much attention is paid to their culture and preservation. Crops of grain are raised, and hops are a chief article of exportation. The culture of the vine is confined mainly to the region of the Rhine, and the terraced hills, from base to summit, show the labor bestowed upon them.

The mineral wealth is great. There are six large coal fields, which can supply the nation at the present rate for the next 2,000 years. Iron ores abound, and special attention is given to the manufacture of monster steel guns at the well-known works of Krupp in the town of Essen.

Special attention has been given during this century to the construction of roads. These were made by the different provinces, and kept in repair by them. In 1835 the first railway line was opened, but not until 1865 was the present railway system begun.

The towns of Germany have much of interest to the tourist. Cologne is among the most ancient of these, and is noted for its Cathedral, which is, perhaps, the finest Gothic structure in the world. The foundation-stone was laid in 1248, but the Cathedral remained in an unfinished state until within a recent date. Frankfort-on-the-Main dates back from the days of Charlemagne. The contrast between the old and new parts of the town is most impressive. The city is a wealthy one, and is made beautiful by the gardens which surround it. Frankfort is the birthplace of Goethe, and there is a fine monument to his memory. Heidelberg is unequalled for the beauty of its surroundings, and its University is among the oldest in Germany. Every visitor hastens to the ruined castle, on a well-wooded spur of the mountains. The ruins are of vast extent and most imposing, and from them one beholds a view of river, valley, and mountain of wonderful beauty. The town of Worms was, during the Middle Ages, one of the most important of Germany. It was here that, in 1521, Luther bravely defended his doctrines before the Emperor Charles V. and a great assembly of the realm. A monument to the great Reformer now stands in the center of the town. The monument was nine years in building, and is adorned with bronze figures of Luther and other reformers.

Dresden, the capital of Saxony, is often called "the Florence of Germany," and its chief attraction is its splendid picture gallery, the gem of which is the "Sistine Madonna," by Raphael, which is, perhaps, the finest picture in the world. Leipsic, which is 65 miles from Dresden, is noted for its University, which was founded in 1496, for its schools of music,

and as the great center of the book trade, the sales of which outvalue those of London or Paris. Munich is famous for its treasures of art and its schools of art.

History.—The history of Germany runs through many centuries, and may be divided into three periods—the Ancient Period, that of the Middle Ages, and the Modern.

Ancient Period, (400 B. C.—450 A. D.)—The Germans are a branch of the Teutonic race, which belongs to the great Aryan family. We first hear of them in the fourth century B. C., at which time they were widely spread. To the Roman writer, Tacitus, are we indebted for a knowledge of the condition of the people in his day. There were many tribes, but they all held to a common origin. The people were tall and vigorous, with fair hair and blue eyes. They dwelt in huts, were fond of war and of hunting, and given in leisure moments to drinking and gambling. Most of them were freemen, and such as were slaves were mainly captives in war. The family tie was strong, and the character and social position of women ranked high. The government was of a local character, and each village had its chief. The army was composed of the whole body of freemen, who marched with shield, spear, and battle-ax, and rushed with wild shouts against the enemy.

Such were the people with whom the Romans came in contact. Cæsar inflicted severe losses upon them, and Augustus tried to make conquest of them. His effort was in vain, for the soldiers under Varus were defeated. Portions of the land were, however, settled by Roman colonies, which built towns and fortresses.

Contact with Roman power led the tribes to unite in groups for defense. The most important of these was the Goths, which formed, in the fourth century, a kingdom which stretched from the Baltic to the Black Sea. Attacked by the Huns of

Asia, they poured southward, and, under Alaric, invaded Italy and captured Rome. The Franks, another German group, now rose to prominence, and it was their destiny to found both the German and French kingdoms. In the Salic code of the fifth century we see the king with his followers, and also his counts who were set over the districts to carry out his laws.

Period of the Middle Ages.—Clovis, in 480 A. D., put an end to the power of Rome in Gaul. By his warlike valor, and by his baptism into the Christian faith, he was able to extend his kingdom.

The Saxons, who still remained heathens, opposed the rule of the Frankish kings in Germany; but the valor of the Franks won the day. Among their able soldiers was Charles Martel, who, in the great battle of Poitiers, saved Europe from the religion and civilization of the false prophet Mohammed.

A great event now took place. In 707 A. D. St. Boniface, an Englishman, began his work as a Christian missionary. The civil power sustained him, and the German tribes embraced the pure faith, and by it were lifted into a higher civilization.

The Saxons alone clung to their heathenism. In 771 Charlemagne rose to power, crushed the Saxons, and welded the German races into one great monarchy. He was not only a warrior, but a statesman and a scholar, and it was his aim to build a kingdom like that of the Cæsars. It was fitting, therefore, that he should be crowned by the pope at Rome on Christmas Eve, 800 A. D.

But Charlemagne had a despotic temper, and his work was not permanent. Wars followed, and were ended by the treaty of Verdun, (843.)

Otto I. and his successors sought to restore the empire of Charlemagne, and to include Italy. The "Holy Roman Em-

pire" was a visionary scheme, and hindered the unity of Germany, as it called the emperors to go south of the Alps.

The conflict between Germany and the papacy now began. Hildebrand became pope under the title of Gregory VII., and claimed to be the one great master of the Christian world—supreme in secular as in spiritual affairs. His arrogant claim was resisted by Henry IV., and the pope excommunicated him, and declared his subjects to be free from their allegiance. Henry IV. could do nothing but submit, for the papal power had reached its height in Europe. A strange sight was now beheld. The German king stood for three days, in the depth of winter, clad in a penitent's garb, at the castle of Canossa, and entreated to be admitted into the presence of the haughty pope. That humiliation Germany has never forgotten. The war that followed, known as the War of Investitures, ran through two centuries, and ended in the exhaustion of both powers.

Frederick Barbarossa (1152–90) was among the greatest of the rulers of Germany. He crushed his enemies, made life and property safe by enforcing the laws, and was popular alike with the nobles and the people. Frederick II. (1212–50) was alike a lover of literature and a wise statesman. His reign began an interesting period in history. It was the age of chivalry, of poetry, of tournaments, of crusades; an age in which noble Gothic churches were built, and cities grew in wealth and in the luxuries of life. But popular freedom did not advance, and king and nobles ruled and oppressed.

During the reign of Charles IV. the plague, known as the "Black Death," swept over the land, and the people rose in fury against the Jews, who were thought in some way to be connected with it. Under the reign of this king the "Golden Bull" was framed. It was a law which settled the principles of an election to the crown. Maximilian I. was the "last of the knights." He was bold and chivalric, but he was in sympathy with the past and opposed the reforms which

were slowly coming upon the land. The times were changing, but he could not, or would not, change with them.

The Modern Period, (1517—to the present time.)—The close of the fifteenth century was marked by great events. America was discovered, printing invented, the ancient writers of Greece and Rome were studied, and the human mind was stirred as never before nor since. The hour was come when the power of the Church of Rome to rule the States of Europe was to be seriously contested.

The Church was not ready to meet the coming storm. Pope Leo X. was a refined pagan in his life, and the morals of many of the priests were a public scandal. It was the dawn of a better day for Europe when Martin Luther, in the year 1517, nailed to the church door, at Wittenberg, the propositions in which he assailed the infamous sale of indulgences.

Luther was certainly a great man—a German of the Germans. He was a close student of the Bible; he was conscientious, firm in his purposes, fearless, yet not rash. He was an eloquent preacher, and a leader among men. By his translation of the Bible into the language of the people, and by his hymns, he has done much for literature. Though rough in controversy, and wielding a heavy battle-ax, he had a great, warm, sympathetic heart, which responded to the strains of music and the voices of children.

Charles V. was now emperor. He did not understand the Reformation, but was forced from motives of State policy to allow it to move onward. The war of the nobles and then that of the oppressed peasants broke out like a flame, but both were subdued. The doctrines of the Reformation continued to spread until the Roman Catholic reaction set in. This was brought about by the devotion, zeal, and scholarship of the rising Order of Jesuits. The "Protestant Union" and the "Catholic League" came in conflict, and

Ferdinand II. determined to secure the triumph of the Church of Rome. The result was the Thirty Years' War. Wallenstein, who was a strange genius, led the forces allied for the preservation of the Roman Catholic faith. He was set aside, and then the Swedish prince, Gustavus Adolphus, won a splendid victory, which placed him at a bound at the head of the defenders of the Protestant Reformation.

The peace of Westphalia (1648) closed the war. Religious toleration was gained, but at a great price, for lands and towns had been wasted, lives destroyed, trade nearly ruined, and hundreds of churches and schools were closed. To add to the national disaster Louis XIV., of France, swept with his army over the land, and robbed at his pleasure.

The rivalry between those two great States, Prussia and Austria, now began. Just then Frederick the Great came to the throne, and by the "Seven Years' War" gave the supremacy to Prussia. His victories stirred the blood of his people, and the dawn of German literature began. The literary power of France was broken, and there was a yearning for national union.

The French Revolution excited the attention of Europe, and was hailed with various feelings. In an evil hour Germany joined the other powers against it, and tried to restore the king. Napoleon appeared, and, after many battles, Germany was within his grasp. The hour of her humiliation was the hour when patriotism began to assert itself. The German government won the people by its wise measures of reform, and in the battle of Leipsic in 1813 broke the power of France.

The effect of the French Revolution made the Germans long for two things—national union and freedom; but against this longing the princes set themselves. The formation of the Zollverein, or the commercial union, was, however, the first step toward the union of States.

Popular discontent increased, and in 1848 the king had to

permit a national assembly to be called. The war in the Crimea and the war in Italy made the desire for national unity still stronger. In 1861 William I. came into power, and in ten years the German Empire was formed, and in the palace of Versailles, in France, the German king was greeted with the title of Emperor.

The man who brought these great events to pass was Bismarck, who became Prime-Minister in 1862. He is the first statesman Germany has ever had, and among the ablest that ever lived. Vehement, far-seeing, somewhat unscrupulous, and with faith in heavy artillery, he flew—like the flight of an eagle—straight to his purpose. In a brief war of seven weeks he humbled Austria, annexed five provinces, and made Prussia supreme. France was jealous of this rising power, and Napoleon, anxious for glory or for the stability of his power, declared war on a flimsy pretext. Germany was ready, and German troops captured Sedan with 80,000 French troops and the emperor; advanced to Paris, which yielded after a vain resistance; and compelled the treaty of Frankfort in 1871. By this treaty France was compelled to pay an enormous sum of money and yield two of her provinces. Amid the great joy of victory the various States agreed to form a confederation, of which the King of Prussia should be proclaimed Emperor. Thus Germany became at last a United State.

Literature.—The earliest literature was in the form of ballads of love and war, which were sung or recited by bards with the aid of the harp. These ballads were handed down by tradition. The age of chivalry was prolific in this kind of poetry. An unknown poet collected the ancient ballads which make up the “*Nieblungenlied*,” which is full of stirring legends, and is highly prized by the German people. Lyric poetry followed,—brief stirring poems in praise of love and of the wake of nature in spring-time.

The drama took early root, and consisted of plays of a religious character, known as "Miracle Plays." These were acted by daylight, first in the churches, and then in the open market-places. One of these which survives is founded on the parable of the Ten Virgins.

The revival of learning gave rise to learned authors, who, however, wrote in Latin, and paid no regard to the demands of the people. The questions of the day were social and practical, and the complaints of the people against despotic princes and worthless priests found utterance in coarse, humorous, and powerful poems of satire, of which the greatest was that immensely popular one of "Reynard the Fox."

The great Protestant Reformation called forth many writers, chief of whom was Martin Luther. His controversial articles are vehement, but written in a language to be understood. But his great work was the translation of the Bible, which has not only promoted piety, but has fixed the language and made it fit for the expression of the highest thought. Hymn writers followed, among whom was Paul Gerhardt, whose hymn, "O sacred Head, now wounded," is among the best of its class.

The first of the race of German philosophers was Leibnitz, (1646-1716.) He appeared at a time when literature was at a low ebb. He wrote in French and Latin, and his views produced a profound impression upon German thinkers.

At the close of the seventeenth century the literary power of France in Germany was supreme. The study of the ancient classics awoke the mind of the people, but the writers sought to copy French authors, rather than to create works of genius. But the victories of Frederick the Great gave political independence, and through that came literary independence. English writers were now studied, and Shakespeare began to reign in Germany as in England.

In the first quarter of the eighteenth century were born three men who became the founders of German classical lit-

erature—Klopstock, Wieland, and Lessing. The fame of the first rests on his poem of “The Messiah,” which is now but little read. Wieland was an untiring writer, whose style is better than his thought. Lessing is now the most influential of the three, and his dramatic works show him to be a master of style. He excelled as a critic, and in “Laocoon,” which is a splendid fragment, he lays down the laws which govern art and poetry.

The “storm-and-stress” period followed, in which ambitious young writers broke away from the tame submission to French laws of criticism, and struck out somewhat wildly into new paths.

Goethe now appeared, (1749–1832,) and his life is a study. He ranks among the five or six greatest poets of the world. Nature was lavish of her gifts to Goethe. He had strong health to old age, culture, a royal imagination, and leisure to give his entire time and strength to literary work. He wrote dramas, poems, and novels, and late in life gave to the world his best and greatest poem, “Faust.” It is in two parts, and the first is the finer of the two.

Schiller began his literary career at the age of twenty-two. Beautiful was the friendship between him and Goethe. They lived for years at Weimar, and each cheered and helped the other in his work. There was none of that jealousy which marks many literary rivals who have but slight genius. Schiller’s works were in the form of dramas or short poems. In his drama of “William Tell” he appeals strongly to that love of freedom which is found, though sometimes in a slumbering state, in the hearts of men. The descriptions of Swiss scenery are faithful, and the more remarkable, as Schiller had never been among the Alps.

Jean Paul Richter (1763–1825) was a strange writer, who abounds in faults of style. His pathos is great, and is only excelled by his humor; and both reflect a tender, sympathetic spirit. The latest of the great imaginative writers is

Heinrich Heine, whose fame is steadily rising. His "Book of Songs" abounds in brief, stirring poems, full of wit and sadness, and expressed with an ease and gracefulness which is more allied to French than German genius.

Able writers are found in every field of literature. Among historians are Ranke and Neander ; among scientists, Alexander Von Humboldt, whose "Cosmos" was an effort to impart science in a popular style ; among philosophers, Kant and Hegel ; and among critics, the brothers William and Frederick Von Schlegel.

German authors, as a class, neglect the laws of expression. They tax the patience of their readers, and it requires a strong love of truth to read some of the books on science and theology which able scholars have written. Hence their influence is limited. Authors who wish readers must seek to express their thoughts, not obscurely, but in the clearest and most attractive forms of speech.

Government.—The empire is a union of twenty-five sovereign States, with several kingdoms, duchies, principalities, and free towns, and the King of Prussia, under the title of German Emperor, has supreme control. The emperor is aided in his work by a Federal Council of 59 members, who represent the various States. The powers of legislation are vested in the emperor, the Council, and *Reichstag*, or Parliament, which numbers about 400 members, elected by a popular vote by ballot.

Executive power is in the hands of the emperor. The Council and the Reichstag meet annually, and laws cannot be passed without a majority of all the votes of these two bodies. The Council is presided over by the chancellor of the empire.

The heavy item of expense is the support of the standing army. There is also an array of drilled men which can be called out in case of need. Every German is liable to mili-

tary service, and every one who is capable must serve seven years, three in the active service, and the other years as a reserve. The heavy tax required to maintain the army and keep up the fortresses is a serious drain on the industries of the people.

Education is, to a large extent, compulsory, and is under government control. Much attention is paid to the primary schools, and of the higher schools there are various kinds. The gymnasia prepares students for the universities, and gives the first place to the study of Latin and Greek. There are other schools which may be called modern or scientific, where the modern languages and "modern branches" are pursued. The universities are unequaled in the world for scholarship, and are mainly under Protestant influence. The one at Berlin has an attendance of 4,000 students, and among its teachers are some of the ablest scholars of Germany. Schools of theology are at Bonn and Halle, at the latter of which taught for many years the celebrated Tholuck. Some of the scientific schools have a wide reputation. The chief musical academy is at Leipsic, and art is studied at Berlin and Munich.

Of all the countries of Europe Germany ranks first in point of culture. The people are fond of music, and among the first of musical composers are Handel, Haydn, Mozart, and Wagner.

Since the close of the war, in 1871, the German government has had to contend with many problems. One of these is Socialism, the growth of which has been most rapid. The German has seen the marvelous things which the government has done, and if he is ignorant, fancies it can, if it will, make the poor man rich. Business depression increases the discontent of the classes who are thrown out of work. Emigration has given some relief, but it is clear that the Germans are not a contented people. They know that Bismarck has made the nation great, but they also know that he has not

made the nation free. He has formed the union of States ; he has made the rulers strong ; but he has turned a deaf ear to the cry of the people for reforms which will surely come, for they are in accord with the growing spirit of the age.

What the future of the nation will be cannot now be told. The rate of taxation is high, and the farmer and mechanic seek to better their condition by emigration. Nine tenths of those who leave Germany come to America, and official returns show that three millions have arrived at American ports. The tide of emigration is on the increase, and is a cause of anxiety to the rulers.

As for the people, they ought not to be hard to rule. They are as a class industrious and saving, and the love of the family, which is as strong now as in the days when Tacitus, the Roman writer, noticed it, is a source of strength to the state. The moral condition does not keep pace with the intellectual. The beer garden is more attractive than the church, and in the church there is much cold and dead formalism. National culture is vain without national religion, and a great army which strengthens the rulers may also imperil the liberties of a people. To Germany, America is a debtor, and therefore desires to see the land of Luther great, prosperous, and free.

Religion.—Two thirds of the people belong to the Evangelical Church, and nearly one third are Roman Catholics. As a rule the Roman Catholic Church is strong in the southern portions of the empire, and the Protestant Church in the northern. Protestants are divided by their confessions of faith into the Reformed and Lutheran, but to unite these a "Church Union" was formed early in the present century, and these distinctions are partially ignored. The Protestants are increasing slightly over the Roman Catholics, owing to the increase of population in the north. Their religious life is not, however, satisfactory. Multitudes are attached to the

Church merely in name, and are led away by skeptical views. Indifference is one of the great foes which the Christian teacher has to contend with. There is need of a second reformation similar to that which passed over England in the days of the Wesleys.

The Roman Catholic Church is well organized, but has had to struggle with various difficulties of late. Many of its communicants seceded after the doctrine of the infallibility of the pope had been proclaimed. In 1872 Bismarck believed that the empire was endangered by the use of political power by the Church of Rome. His measures were firm and decisive. He banished the Jesuits, suppressed convents, and, by a series of laws, brought the priests under the control of the State, and placed the administration of Church property into the hands of laymen. The pope protested, but in vain. How far such severe measures were justified is a matter of dispute.

The Jews are found mainly in the large towns, and number about half a million. They are mainly money dealers, and some of them have attained great wealth. They have freedom under the law, but popular prejudice is still against them, and sometimes breaks out in a strange way. They wield, however, much influence, not only by their wealth, but by their control of many prominent newspapers.

NOTES.

THE number of works about Germany is legion. Consult the encyclopedias. There are many biographies of Luther and Goethe, whose influence seems to be growing from age to age. Standard German literature is of recent growth. Carlyle, in his "Critical Essays," did much to introduce a knowledge of it into England.

We subjoin brief sentiments from various German authors:

“Art is long, life is short, judgment difficult, and opportunity fleeting.”

“Religion is the final goal, whither all our thoughts and works must tend. Who knows not this knows nothing; knows not himself nor God, and is capable of no real happiness.”

“A good conscience is better than two witnesses. It melts thy sorrow, as the sun the ice. It is a fountain when you thirst, a staff when you sink, a shelter when the storm breaks, and the kiss of peace in death.”

“Before all things watch over thyself that thou never losest within thy conscious self a trust in God and in good men.”

“Before thou dost undertake any business be not ashamed to raise thy soul fervently toward God, the fountain of all good.”

“We have all wept—the happy man sometimes in sorrow, the unhappy man sometimes for joy.”

GERMANY.

(THOUGHT OUTLINE TO HELP THE MEMORY.)

1. Cities? Hamburg? Berlin? The Rhine? Forests? Mines? Cologne? Frankfort? Worms? Dresden? Leipsic?
2. Ancient people? Wars? Christianity in Germany? Conflict with Papaey? Hildebrand and Henry IV.? Frederick Barbarossa?
3. Leo X.? Luther? Thirty Years' War? Frederick the Great? France? Napoleon? Bismark? Sedan? The German Emperor?
4. Literature and poetry? Luther's translation of the Bible? Klopstock, Wieland, Lessing! Goethe? Schiller? Jean Paul Richter?
5. Form of government? Standing army? Universities? Difficult problems? Religion? Bismark and the Jesuits? Jews of Germany?

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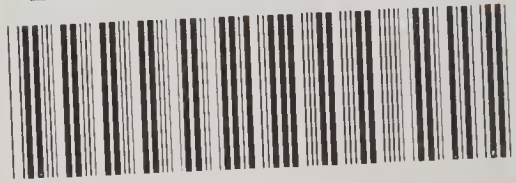
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